

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 20, 2011

The Hon. Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Mr. Kenneth E. Melson
Acting Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and
Explosives
Office of Public and Governmental Affairs
99 New York Avenue, NE, Room 5S 144
Washington, DC 20226 USA

Dear Attorney General Holder and Acting Director Melson:

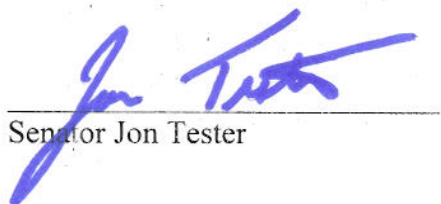
We write to urge you to use your authority to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

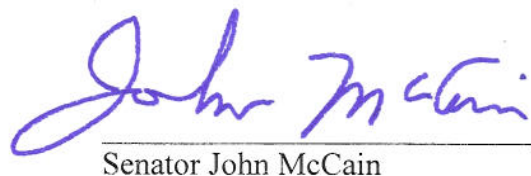
Congress granted a 30-day amnesty in 1968 and provided for the establishment of additional amnesty periods not exceeding 90 days per period. However, no amnesty periods have been provided since then. As a result, there are a number of firearms in gun safes, attics and collections that are still unregistered. It is critical that we give our veterans another 90-day amnesty period to comply with the law without fear of penalty. Our legislation is drafted with this goal in mind.

Out of concern for this issue, on April 12, 2011, we introduced S. 798, the Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act, to enable a veteran who acquired an eligible firearm during military service, to register that gun in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. Our legislation applies to war trophy firearms acquired outside the continental United States lawfully according to military regulations.

We urge you to use your authority to implement a 90-day amnesty for veterans and their family members to register these firearms. If an amnesty is not provided, we will be further convinced that legislation is necessary in order for our veterans to register their lawfully obtained firearms.

Sincerely,



Senator Jon Tester

Senator John McCain